SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification as follows:

In paragraph [0021]:

Within the concentrator stage 200, an N input to L output concentration is performed on the entering ATM cells. More specifically, if there are k cells arriving in a time slot for a given output, after passing through the concentrator stage 200, all k cells will emerge on outputs 1 to k, if, of course, $k \leq L$. In this manner, the concentrator stage 200 can reduce the size of the stages that follow, here, the non-recirculating sort-trap stage ~~202~~ 208 and the queuing stage 202 by compacting all of the active input ports. If $k > L$, however, then all L outputs of the concentrator stage 200 will have cells thereon and k-~~1~~ L cells will be dropped within the concentrator stage 200.

In paragraph [0026]:

Finally, in various configurations thereof, the width of the trap buffer 210 may be varied between 1 and N. Widths less than L are generally less preferred since such configurations would require arbitration circuitry to handle time slots where L cells attempt to enter a lesser number of buffers. Thus, a more suitable width would be L. In such a configuration, each line 211-1 through 211-L would be coupled to a corresponding FIFO or other type of buffer. Again, however, since the L lines of the non-recirculating sort trap stage 202 were concentrated from the N input ports 201-1 through 201-N of the switching system 180, a drawback to configuring the trap buffer 210 to have a width of L is that, for a given line i, in a first time slot, the cell on that line may have a first destination address while, in a subsequent time slot, the cell on that line may have a second destination address. If so, various ones of the FIFOs or other buffers forming the

trap buffer 210 may simultaneously hold cells having different destination addresses. As a result, the return of the trapped cells to the non-recirculating trap substage 210 would be much more complicated since the destination address of each returning cells may need to be determined to ensure proper routing thereof. Thus, in another ~~alternatte~~ alternate configuration, it is contemplated that the trap buffer 210 may have a width of N. For such a configuration, each cell re-routed to the trap buffer 210 would be placed in a selected one of the N FIFO or other type of buffers based upon the destination address for that cell. If multiple cells re-routed to the trap buffer 210 have the same destination address, the cells may all be placed in the same buffer, if desired, in order of priority.